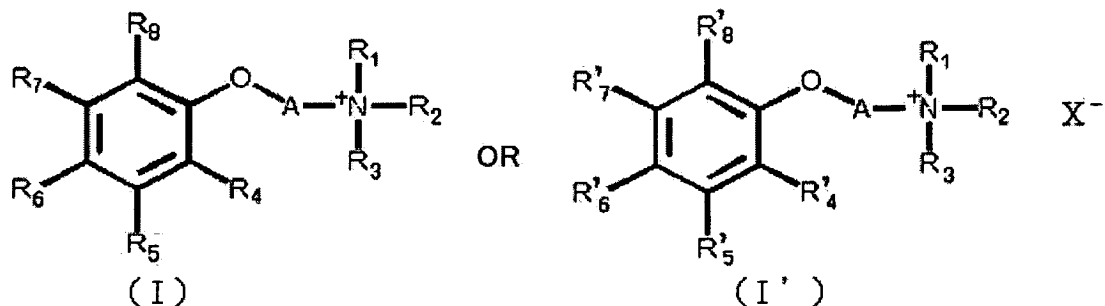


ABSTRACT

A quaternary ammonium compound of the present invention is a quaternary ammonium compound represented by general formula (I) or (I')



(wherein, A represents a linear alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, a linear alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a hydroxyl group, or a branched alkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms and a hydroxyl group, R₁ to R₃ may be the same or different and represent a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, one of R₄ to R₈ represents CO₂⁻ or SO₃⁻, while no more than three of the remaining R₄ to R₈ represent a group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group and an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and other R₄ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, one of R'₄ to R'₈ represents CO₂H or SO₃H, no more than three of the remaining R'₄ to R'₈ represent a group selected from a protected hydroxyl group and an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, while other R'₄ to R'₈ represent a hydrogen

atom, and X^- represents an anion capable of forming a salt with a quaternary ammonium group).